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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. | | | |
| Typed or Printed Name | | Teri Muir | |
| Signature | | <i>Teri Muir</i> | Date MAR. 13, 2002 |
| AMENDMENT Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Address to: Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 | | Attorney Docket | GUID-012CON |
| | | First Named Inventor | Lawrence W. Hu, <i>et al.</i> |
| | | Application Number | 09/900,503 |
| | | Filing Date | July 6, 2001 |
| | | Group Art Unit | 3732 |
| | | Examiner Name | Jeffery A. Smith |
| | | Title | SURGICAL RETRACTOR PLATFORM BLADE APPARATUS |

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 13, 2001 for which a three-month period for response was given, making this response due on or before March 13, 2002. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

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TOLSON

In view of the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 2, please insert the following new paragraph:

(New) This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/305,811, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,331,158.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 3 as with the following:

(Amended) Suture lock 80 may be biased towards the locked position, preferably using a small spring between the suture lock and the recess 75. In a preferred embodiment, a piece of resilient closed cell foam 89 is fixed to body 83 to provide the desired biasing effect. Free end 84 may optionally have a number of teeth or ridges 82 to ensure acceptable traction against the suture material.

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